8
The Antique Gift Sho

When a Nepalese goddess appears at the Antique Gift Shop, Bun-Nyuh is taken in by the beautiful woman and her knack for sales. Sensing that her freedom from the antiques is near as the money rolls in, Bun Nyuh leaves the goddess in charge and begins planning for her life away from the shop, despite Mr. Yang's protests. But the goddess's sales come with strings attached, and those strings will pull Bun-Nyuh back to the heart of the shop where a new darkness awaits...

The Antique Gift Shop

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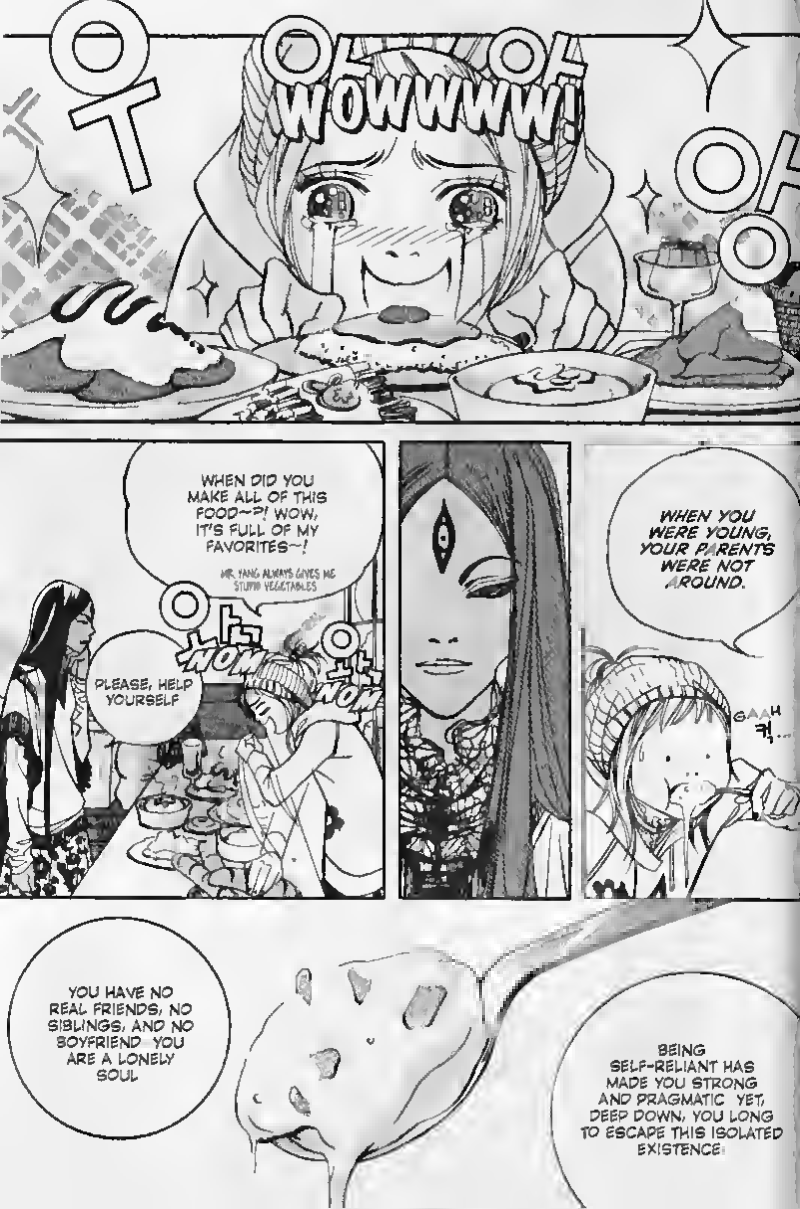
WELCOME, GODDESS.

DO NOT WORRY I WOULD NEVER FORCE ANY SOUL TO GIVE UP ITS BODY OR MIND IN EXCHANGE FOR SAVING ITS LIFE
I BET IT'S A PAIN TO DRAW THAT EYE ON EVERY MORNING~! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO KOREA, ANYWAY _?
CRAP. WHAT NONSENSE...
I'M HERE TO SEE MY TRUE LOVE.

IT WAS HE WHO TAUGHT ME ABOUT KOREA. HE IS MY SOUL MATE.
I WAS TO BE REUNITED WITH HIM TODAY, BUT THERE WAS A SMALL MISUNDERSTANDING. HE WILL COME TO SEE ME SOON, THOUGH I CAN FEEL IT.
AH!
I HAVE EXPENDED TOO MUCH POWER...
THIS ISN'T GOOD. MISS SOON, YOU SHOULD STAY HERE TONIGHT. I KNOW IT'S JUST A STORAGE ROOM, BUT ONE NIGHT WON'T HURT.
...

YOU DISLIKE ME.
YOU ARE SUSPICIOUS OF ME, SO YOU REMAIN GUARDED
BUT SOON. YOU WILL RESPECT ME
TOK
TOK
DROP

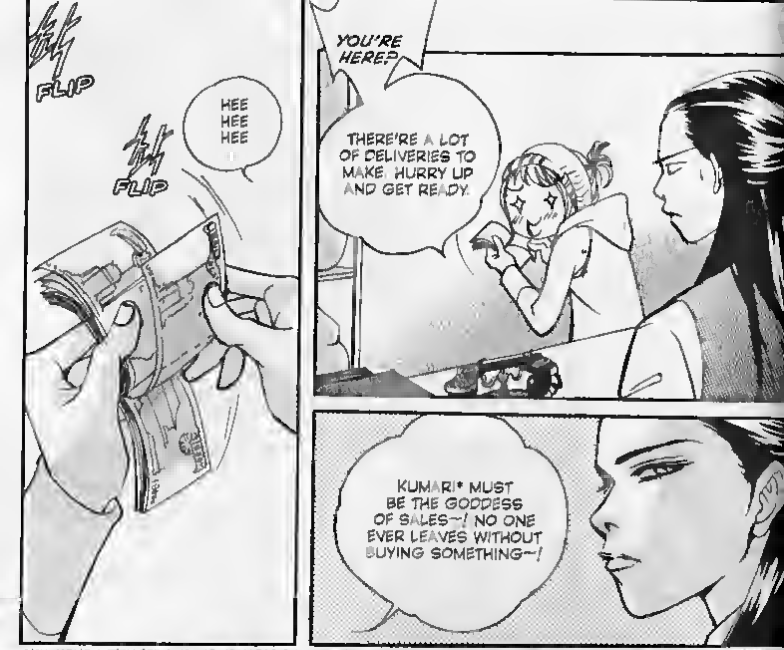
I CAN TELL YOU PLAN TO STAY FOR A WHILE.
똑똑 TOK
똑똑 TOK


WOWWWW!
WHEN DID YOU MAKE ALL OF THIS FOOD~?! WOW, IT'S FULL OF MY FAVORITES~!
MR. YANG ALWAYS GIVES ME STUPID VEGETABLES
PLEASE, HELP YOURSELF
WOW
WOW
WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, YOUR PARENTS WERE NOT AROUND.
GAAH
YOU HAVE NO REAL FRIENDS, NO SIBLINGS, AND NO BOYFRIEND. YOU ARE A LONELY SOUL
BEING SELF-RELIANT HAS MADE YOU STRONG AND PRAGMATIC. YET, DEEP DOWN, YOU LONG TO ESCAPE THIS ISOLATED EXISTENCE.

AHH, YOU POSSESS A STRANGE ENERGY YOU CAN FEEL WHAT OTHERS CANNOT SEE
IT PREVENTS YOU FROM CHANGING YOUR DESTINY
TAK
LIKE THAT CHILD, WHO IS ALSO IN POSSESSION OF AN UNFORTUNATE ENERGY...

HEY!
DADDY, PLEASE BUY THAT FOR ME~!
OH, SORRY..
UH... AH...

WHAT AM I DOING?
IF YOU HAD TOLD THE GIRL'S FATHER WHAT I SAW IN HER, YOU COULD HAVE SAVED HER
YOU DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH FAITH


FLIP
HEE HEE HEE
FLIP
YOU'RE HERE?
THERE'RE A LOT OF DELIVERIES TO MAKE. HURRY UP AND GET READY.
KUMARI* MUST BE THE GODDESS OF SALES~! NO ONE EVER LEAVES WITHOUT BUYING SOMETHING~!

*KUMARI IS A TERM FOR A YOUNG NEPALESE GIRL CHOSEN TO SERVE AS A RELIGIOUS SYMBOL BY HINDUS AND BUDDHISTS IN NEPAL.

WHY WOULD A PERSON SUCH AS YOURSELF ASSOCIATE WITH SOMEONE LIKE BUN-NYUH?
YOU WATCH HER INNOCENTLY ENOUGH... BUT I SEE DESIRE IN YOUR EYES... THE DESIRE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING....
COULD IT BE... YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF DARK DESIGNS ON HER?

YOU DO NOT SAY MUCH, BUT.
I CAN SEE YOUR DARK DESIRE.
YOU...

GRAB
YOU HAVE GOOD EYES
THERE IS AN OLD SAYING ABOUT KNOWLEDGE BEING A DANGEROUS THING
SHIVERING

MR YANG, MY ANKLE IS
LIMP
LIMP
UH...
CRAAASH
ARGHHH!
THESE ARE CALLED THE "TEARS OF GOD"

THEY CAN EVEN REVIVE A DEAD PERSON. PUT YOUR FAITH IN THOSE, AND YOUR ANKLE WILL SOON BE BETTER.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY'RE MADE OF.
YOU SHOULD GO SEE A DOCTOR. IT'S WORSE THAN YESTERDAY.
GAAAH~!
AHHHHH.
TOTAL LACK OF AWARENESS→

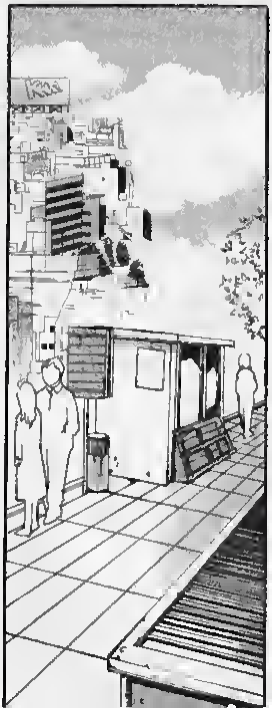
YOUR SOUL MATE IS NEAR YOU.
HE ALWAYS WATCHES OVER YOU HE IS TENDER AND KIND
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT~? I HAVEN'T BEEN ON A DATE IN 500 YEARS
IS SHE TRYING TO MAKE ME MAD ?
HE IS HESITATING BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT EASY TO DEAL WITH, NOR ARE YOU GOOD AT FOLLOWING YOUR HEART...
. SO YOU WILL NOT REALIZE YOUR FEELINGS UNTIL HE HAS ALREADY GONE
SHE'S TOTALLY RIGHT! I AM LIKE THAT BUT WHO IS THIS GUY??

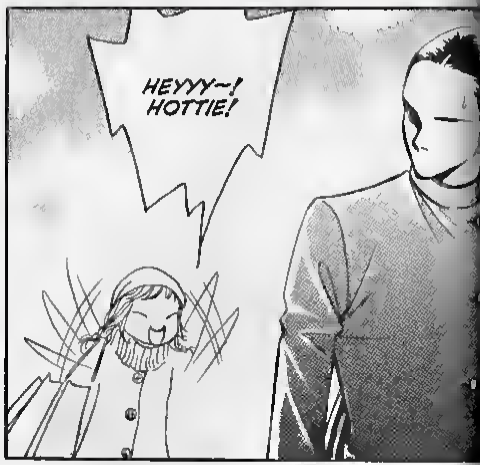
HMM . HE IS A BEAUTIFUL MAN, LIKE A FLOWER
HE CHANGED HIS PROFESSION NOT TOO LONG AGO . HE IS FARING BETTER IN THE RESTAURANT BUSINESS THAN HE WAS IN THE FLORAL BUSINESS
RESTAURANT? FLOWERS?
UM...
HE IS YOUR ONE AND ONLY SOUL MATE—YOU SHOULD NOT LET HIM GO.
—HE—
HE IS GETTING CLOSER.
N-NO WAY!
.IS BRINGING SOMETHING YOU LIKE
HE IS NEARBY

DING-A-LING
MISS BUN-NYUH!
Kim's Hotdog
ACK!

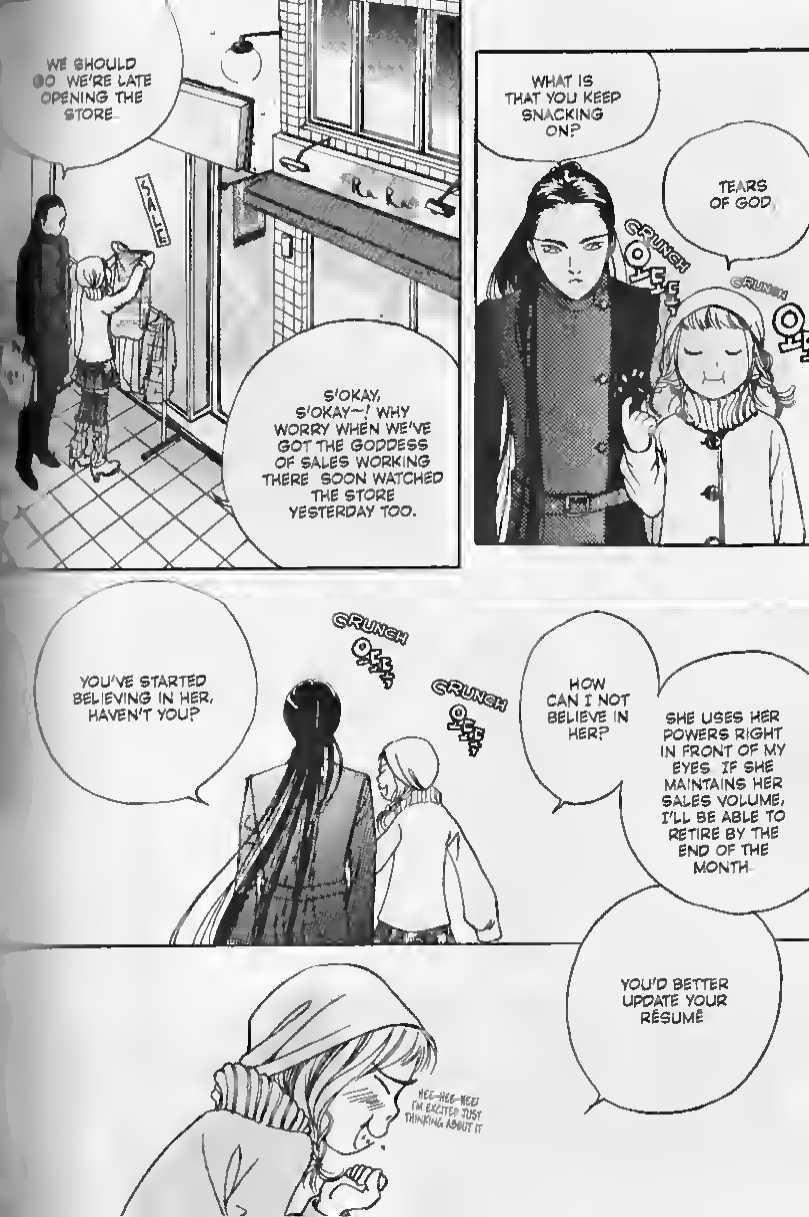
UHH...I'M GOING TO PROPOSE TO SOMEONE...
...SO WOULD YOU MIND CHOOSING A RING FOR ME?
D-DID I LIKE HIM? OH, RIGHT.. HE DID SAY HE WOULD GIVE ME A FREE HOT DOG WHEN HE SAID IT, I WAS VERY MOVED
HA-HA-HA...
MISS SOON?
I-I HURT MY LEG. MY EMPLOYEE WILL PICK ONE FOR YOU.
SOON-I MR. YANG!
MISS BUN-NYUH!

PLEASE, I WANT YOU TO CHOOSE IT! PLEASE PICK SOMETHING YOU LIKE!




HEYYY~! HOTTIE!

DID YOU HAVE A GOOD VACATION? WASN'T IT NICE TO TAKE A BREAK?
PANT
YES SPEAKING OF, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
OH~! I WENT SHOPPING DON'T I LOOK GOOD?
I'M TIRED OF HAVING NO LIFE, Y'KNOW?


WE SHOULD GO. WE'RE LATE OPENING THE STORE.
SALE
S'OKAY, S'OKAY~! WHY WORRY WHEN WE'VE GOT THE GODDESS OF SALES WORKING THERE. SOON WATCHED THE STORE YESTERDAY TOO.
WHAT IS THAT YOU KEEP SNACKING ON?
TEARS OF GOD.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
YOU'VE STARTED BELIEVING IN HER, HAVEN'T YOU?
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
HOW CAN I NOT BELIEVE IN HER?
SHE USES HER POWERS RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES. IF SHE MAINTAINS HER SALES VOLUME, I'LL BE ABLE TO RETIRE BY THE END OF THE MONTH.
YOU'D BETTER UPDATE YOUR RÉSUMÉ
HEE-HEE-HEE! I'M EXCITED JUST THINKING ABOUT IT

IF YOU NO LONGER WANT ME HERE...
...I WILL LEAVE THE STORE ANY TIME
THROB
쓰신

ARGH!
ARE YOU OKAY? IS IT YOUR ANKLE AGAIN. ?
N-NO.. IT'S NOT. .
I'M OKAY I THINK IT'S GETTING BETTER. .!
.....!

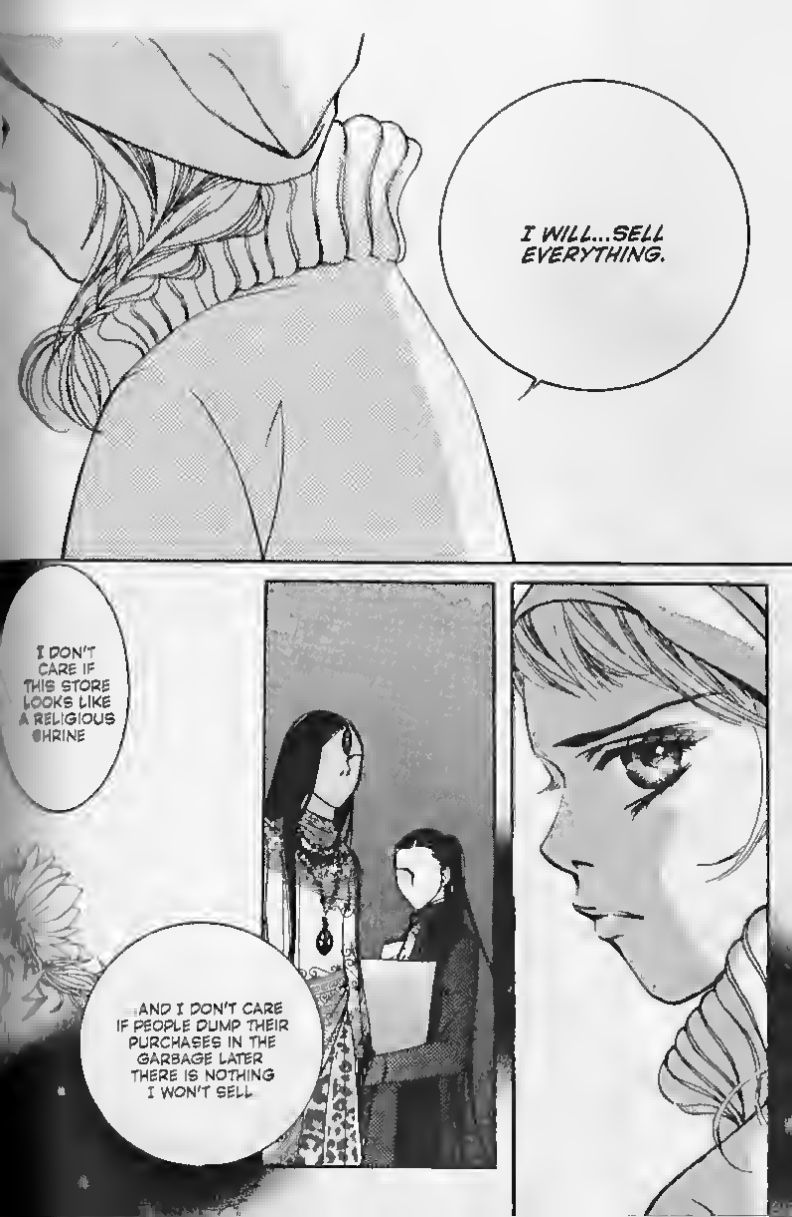
YOU HAVE A BAD PERSONAL ASSOCIATION, AND IT IS ACTIVELY STOPPING YOUR SOUL MATE FROM REACHING YOU. IF YOU DO NOT GET AWAY FROM THAT ASSOCIATION, YOU WILL MISS YOUR CHANCE AT HAPPINESS.
HEY, MR. YANG! MR. YANG WHO WORKS FOR ME AT MY STORE!
I'M JUST YOUR EMPLOYER, YOU'RE JUST MY EMPLOYEE, RIGHT?
GET AWAY, GET AWAY!
EVEN IF YOU SEE ME ON THE STREET, DON'T TALK TO ME.

THAT IS THE LAST ONE, RIGHT?
YUP~!
ISN'T THAT STORE AMAZING? I THINK I BOUGHT TOO MUCH.
ME TOO~!
OPEN
WE'RE HERE~!
THE ONLY THING I CAN RELY ON IS THE GODDESS OF SALES!

HELLO.

I DECORATED THE STORE WITH THINGS FROM THE STORAGE ROOM.
THE NEW LOOK HAS ALREADY ATTRACTED CUSTOMERS
LOW BLOW
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WE CAN'T SELL THESE YET

BUT THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN SOLD. THE CUSTOMER WILL RETURN FOR IT.
YOU HAVE STEPPED OUT OF BOUNDS HERE.
MISS BUN-NYUH WANTS ME HERE. WHY MUST YOU ALWAYS INTER-FERE?
THIS ISN'T YOUR JOB.
FINE I SUPPOSE IT IS TIME FOR ME TO GO THEN
THIS STORE IS NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR THREE PEOPLE!
GOOD-BYE
IF I CAN SELL EVERYTHING, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS!


I WILL...SELL EVERYTHING.
I DON'T CARE IF THIS STORE LOOKS LIKE A RELIGIOUS SHRINE
...AND I DON'T CARE IF PEOPLE DUMP THEIR PURCHASES IN THE GARBAGE LATER THERE IS NOTHING I WON'T SELL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS, ...MR. YANG.

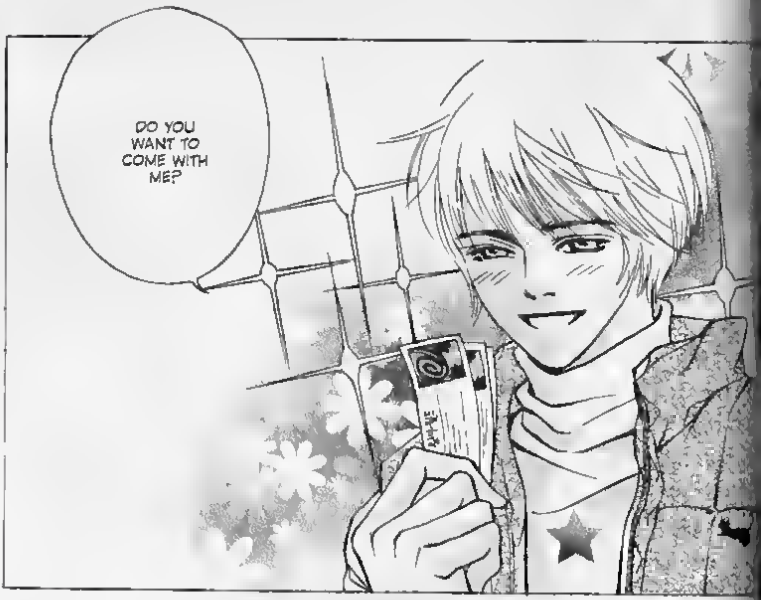
조선의 마지막 황녀

YOUR SKILLS ARE NO LONGER SUITED TO MY STORE.
PLEASE LEAVE.

CHARAK

CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
THROB
THROB
DOESN'T HE GET IT?

IF SHE CAN HELP ME GET OUT OF HERE, SHE REALLY IS...DIVINE.
ANTIQUE GIFT SHOP


DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME?

I'VE GOT THREE FREE TICKETS FOR THE AMUSEMENT PARK
I WANT TO, BUT I'M TOO BUSY. I'VE JUST PUT THIS STORE UP FOR SALE

PLEASE GO WITH HIM. DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THE STORE
I BELIEVE I CAN SELL THE REST OF THE INVENTORY BY TONIGHT

꺄아아~
WEEEEEE--

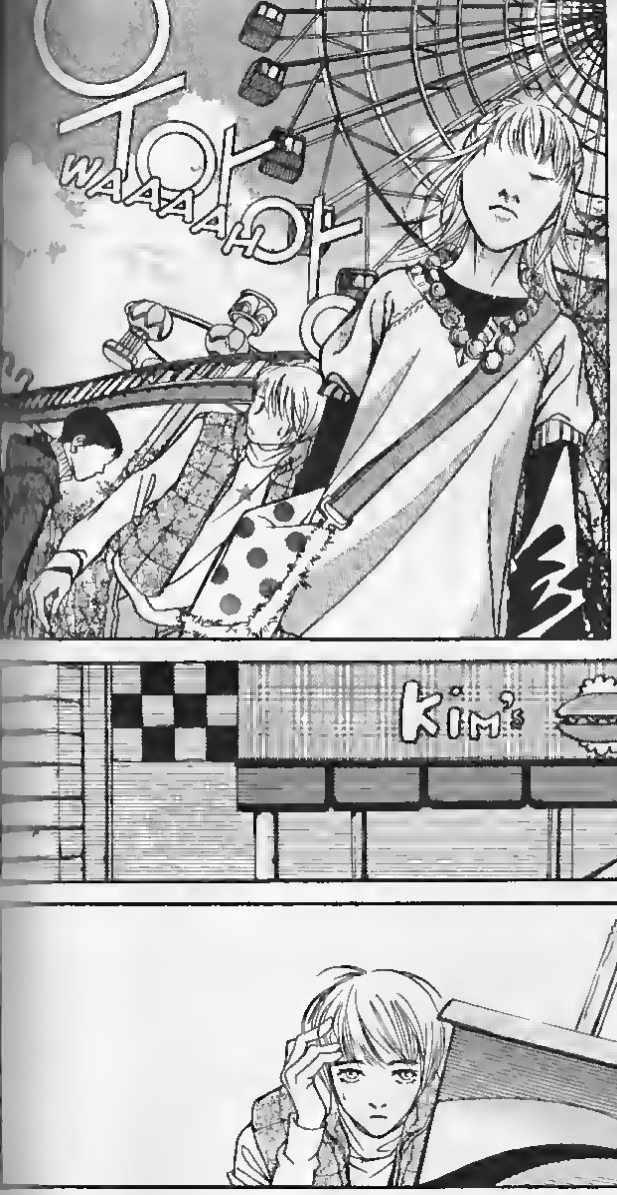
OH, MY HEAD.
BUTTERFLY~! BUTTERFLY~!
TOK TOK
TOK TOK
COME, FLY THIS WAY
TOK TOK
TIGER BUTTERFLY AND WHITE BUTTERFLY~!

THAT THING'S GOTTEN BIGGER SINCE LAST TIME.
TOMI, I SING GOOD, RIGHT?
OPEN

DAD, I MADE PEE BY MYSELF~! TOMI SAW IT TOO~!
HEY!
SHE'S THE OWNER OF TOMI'S STUFF
SHE IS ALSO IN POSSESSION OF AN UNFORTUNATE ENERGY
IF YOU HAD TOLD THE GIRL'S FATHER WHAT I SAW IN HER, YOU COULD HAVE SAVED HER...

WHAT AM I GONNA SAY? I SHOULDN'T GET INVOLVED
SHOULD I TELL HIM SHE HAS A DARK AURA THAT'LL BRING HER HARM? HE'LL SAY I'M CRAZY!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER FACE?

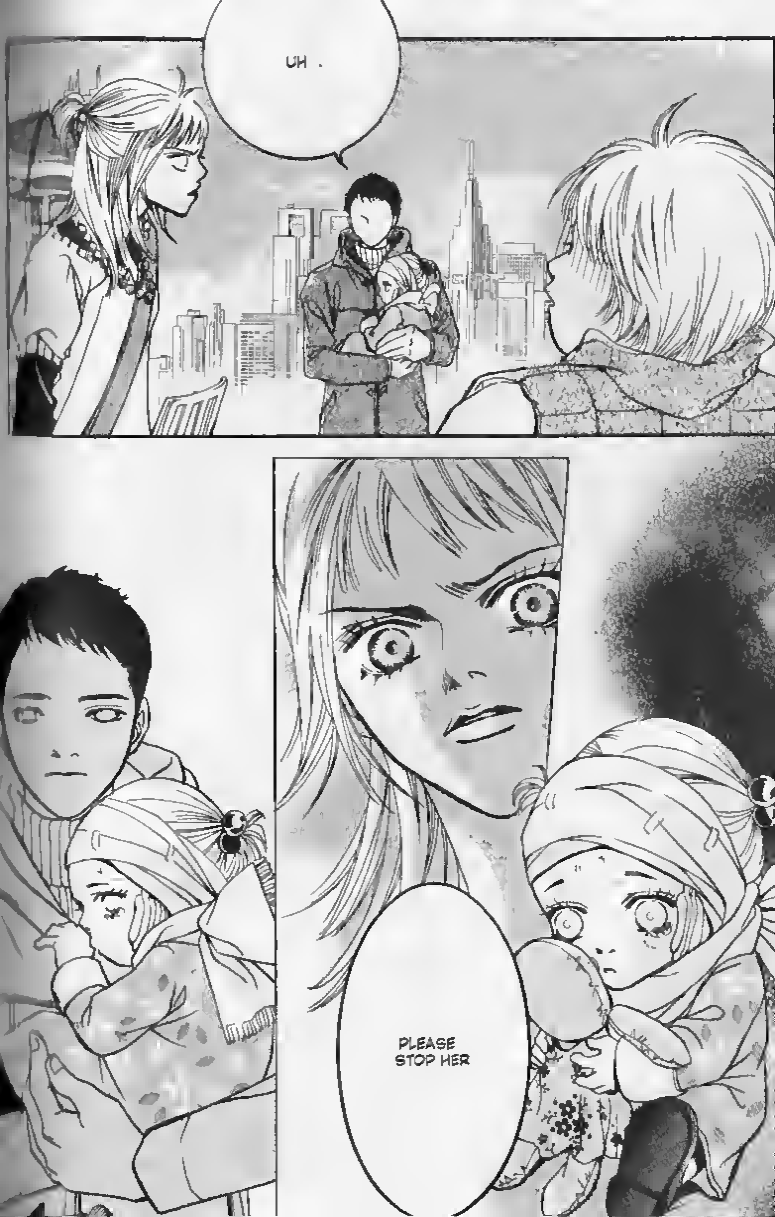
YOU DIDN'T FLUSH THE TOILET AFTER YOU POOED, DID YOU?
YANK
EVEN IF YOU'RE GOING TO THE BATHROOM, YOU SHOULD STICK WITH YOUR DAD! IF YOU GO OFF ALONE, A MONSTER WILL TAKE YOU AWAY, Y'HEAR ME?
SHUT UP! DON'T YOU EVER TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HER IF YOU WERE ON YOUR TOES, WOULD SHE BE GETTING HURT SO OFTEN?!
HEY, SHE'S JUST A LITTLE KID...
IDIOT
WAAAH


WAAAAAH!
Kim's
Hot

Hotdog
SLURP
SLURP
BAD TIMING ?
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANNA SAY TO ..
DON'T WORRY. THE ANSWER WILL BE YES.
PEP
Kim's

ISN'T MISS SOON STAYING AT YOUR STORE? I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME SHE CAME HERE A MONTH AGO SHE ALWAYS USED TO SIT RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
THERE, IT WAS RIGHT THERE
A MONTH AGO?
HUH?
TH-THEN, I'LL GO TO THE STORE AFTER I GET OFF WORK
SHE WAS INTERESTED IN COMMON KOREAN BELIEFS, AND SHE ALSO ASKED ABOUT YOU.
I TOLD HER HOW GOOD YOU WERE AND I ALSO TOLD HER THAT YOU HELPED ME OUT
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED I CONVERT MY FLOWER SHOP TO A RESTAURANT WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO GO BANKRUPT, AND YOU WERE SO RIGHT

SINCE THEN, I BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU TELL ME.
THAT WASN'T THE ONLY TIME YOU WERE RIGHT.
I NEVER SAID THAT.
EVEN MY CUSTOMERS KNOW ABOUT YOU. YOU COULD TURN YOUR STORE INTO A SHRINE!
I TOLD YOU, I NEVER SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT!


UH .
PLEASE
STOP HER

THE NEPALESE THINK BLOOD IS DIRTY, SO WHEN A KUMARI HAS HER FIRST PERIOD, HER GLORIOUS LIFE IS OVER
PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT THE RETURN OF A GIRL THAT LEFT HOME TO BE A KUMARI IS AN OMEN THAT WILL BRING HER HUSBAND AN EARLY DEATH OR HER FAMILY UNHAPPINESS
SO MOST OF THOSE GIRLS LEAVE THEIR HOMETOWNS, AND OFTEN END UP IN A BROTHEL NEAR THE BORDERS
THREE YEARS AGO I FREQUENTLY WENT TO NEPAL FOR BUSINESS I MET HER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ONE OF THOSE BROTHELS

I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE END OF STORY...
BUT SHE THREATENED ME AND SAID MY DAUGHTER WOULD BE IN DANGER IF I DIDN'T DIVORCE MY WIFE...
SINCE THE DAY... YOU SAVED MY DAUGHTER...
...SHE KEEPS GETTING CUTS AND BURNS... SHE KEEPS GETTING HURT...

TH-THEN, WHY DON'T YOU ASK SOON TO STOP IT?
THIS DOLL ISN'T SUITABLE FOR HER.
DO YOU THINK SHE'S A GODDESS?
WOULD A GODDESS HURT A LITTLE GIRL FOR HER OWN BENEFIT?
NO! I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT MR. YANG WAS RIGHT.

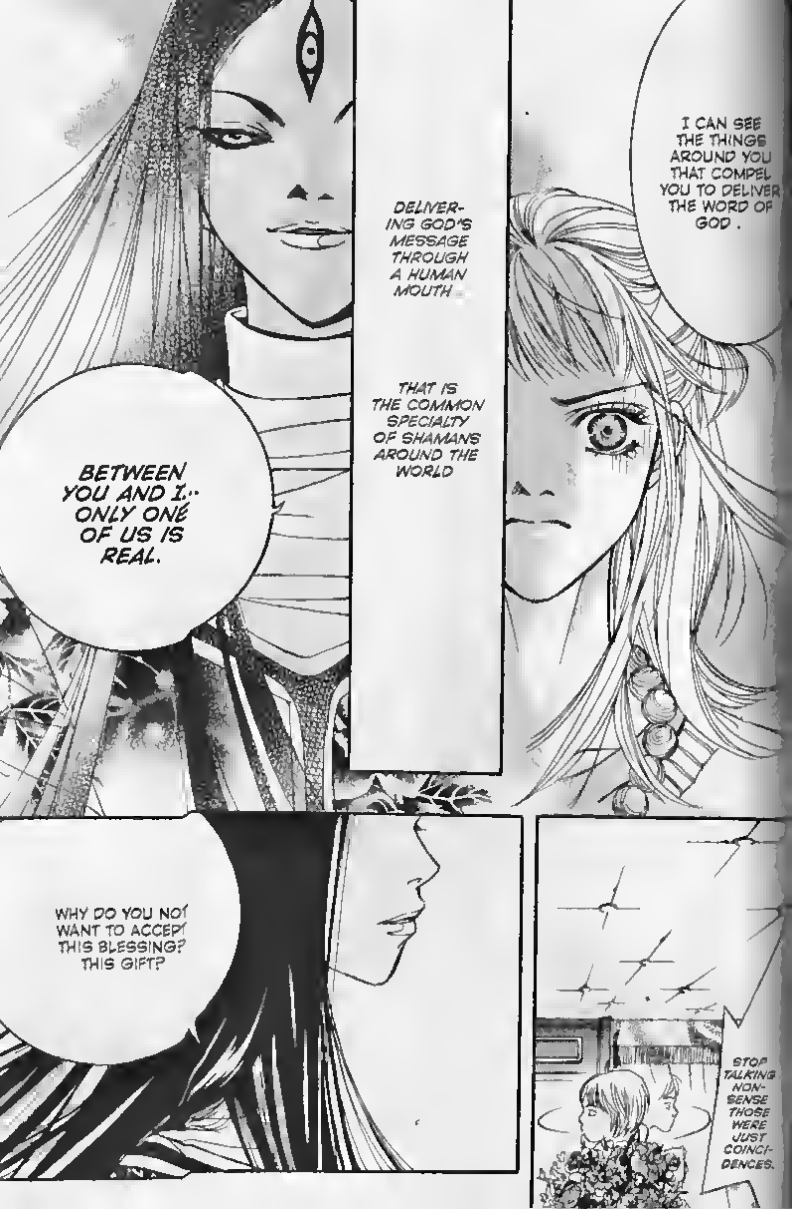
IF YOU WERE A GODDESS, WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?
PLEASE, TELL HER TO GO BACK I'LL PROTECT MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER
WHATEVER.
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
DAMMIIIIIT!

아아아
TOMIIIII~!
IS TOMI HERE?

GODDESS, MY SON IS GOING TO...
HE IS TAKING A TEST SOON, IS HE NOT?
NO, NOT A TEST—! HE'S GOING ON A BLIND DATE
A BLIND DATE IS A KIND OF TEST AS WELL PUT THIS CANDLE HOLDER AND THIS PICTURE FRAME BESIDE HIS BED
SHE EVEN TELLS US OUR FORTUNE WHILE WE SHOP
FOREIGN SHAMANS ARE BETTER THAN KOREAN ONES~!
GODDESS, I'VE BEEN MARRIED TWENTY YEARS, BUT I HAVEN'T HAD A BABY YET.
I WILL WRITE A TALISMAN
IF YOU HAVE FAITH IN IT, YOUR WISH WILL COME TRUE
YOU'RE CRAZY. HOW COULD YOU DO THIS IN MY STORE...?

IS THIS HOW...
...YOU'VE BEEN SELLING ALL OF MY ANTIQUES?

타닷타닷
CRASH
YOU STALKED ME, AND THEN YOU USED WHAT I SAID TO SPOOK PEOPLE
YOU'RE A SWINDLER WHO PRETENDS TO BE DIVINE
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A FRAUD AND A CHEAT!


I CAN SEE THE THINGS AROUND YOU THAT COMPEL YOU TO DELIVER THE WORD OF GOD.
DELIVERING GOD'S MESSAGE THROUGH A HUMAN MOUTH
THAT IS THE COMMON SPECIALTY OF SHAMANS AROUND THE WORLD
BETWEEN YOU AND I... ONLY ONE OF US IS REAL.
WHY DO YOU NOT WANT TO ACCEPT THIS BLESSING? THIS GIFT?
STOP TALKING NONSENSE THOSE WERE JUST COINCIDENCES.

MISS BUN-NYUUUH!
SHALL WE TEST THOSE BELIEFS?
YOU'RE HERE?
HE IS YOUR LAST CHANCE, YOUR FUTURE
I CAN SEE A NORMAL LIFE IN YOUR FUTURE BUT IF YOU MISS THIS CHANCE, YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY FROM THIS STORE
BELIEVE ME OR THROW AWAY HIS FLOWERS AND ACCEPT YOUR ROLE AS A SHAMAN.

YOU MUST HAVE GUESSED...
A NORMAL LIFE...
I HAVEN'T KNOWN YOU FOR A LONG TIME BUT...
IF I ACCEPT THOSE FLOWERS, IT MEANS I'M SAYING SOON IS RIGHT, BUT...
...I...
...A NORMAL LIFE...

...NORMAL...
-SHHHK-

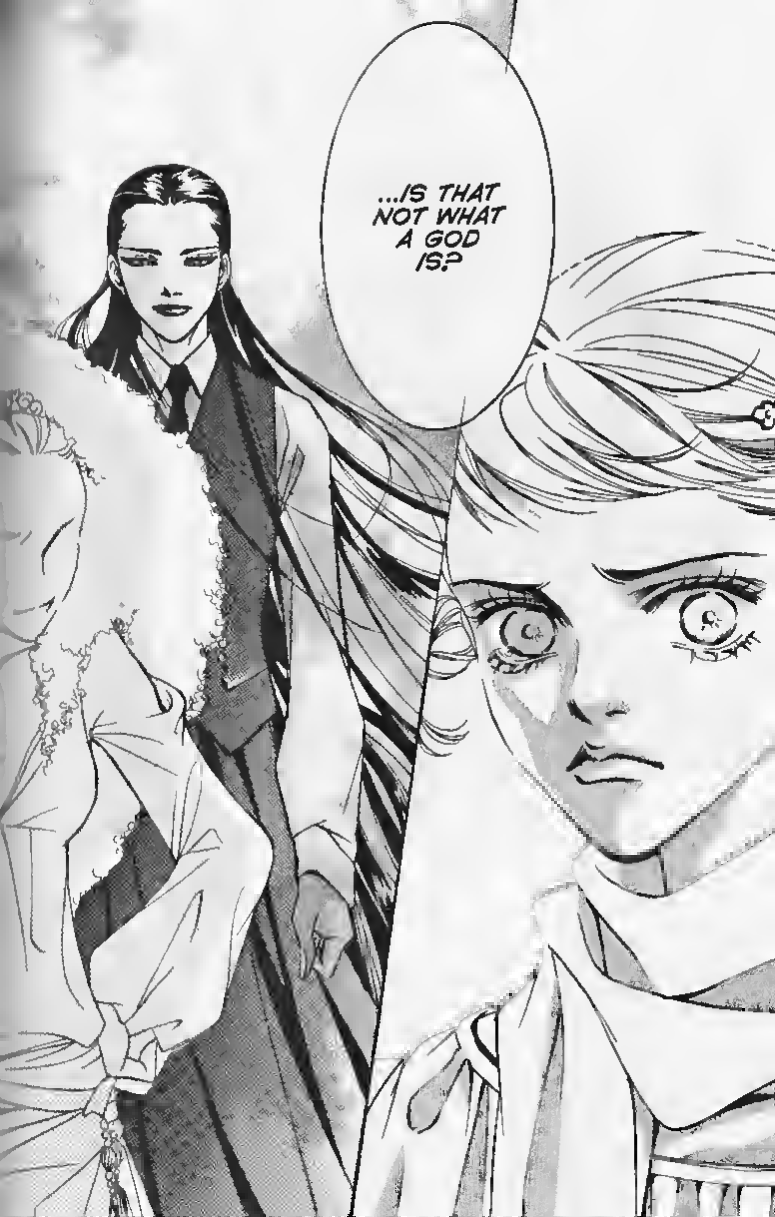
PLEASE MARRY ME!
I KNOW YOU WON'T SAY NO MISS SOON

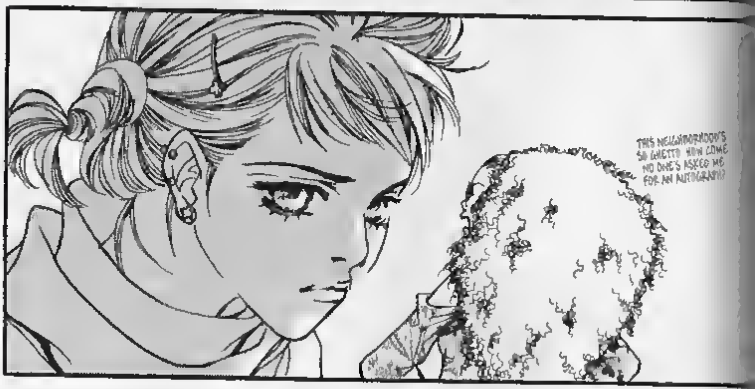
WHOOSH
LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME WORKER. YOU'LL BE HIRED NO MATTER WHAT. ANTIQUE GIFT SHOP
NOT ONLY DO I NOT KNOW HIS PHONE NUMBER, BUT
I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME IS HIS LAST NAME YANG AND HIS FIRST NAME MISTER?
THROB
THROB
CREAK

PLEASE LEAVE IT THERE. I CAN'T GIVE YOU A CASH REFUND, SO TAKE WHATEVER YOU WANT INSTEAD
DING-LING...
GRAB
LOOK AT THIS STUPID STORE...
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
CAN

...YOU PLEASE TAKE ME TO A DOCTOR~?! MY ANKLE IS KILLING ME~!
LET GO OF ME, BITCH. THIS DRESS COST 3,000,000 WON.*
YOU WENCH DON'T WIPE YOUR RUNNY NOSE ON MY DRESS
*KOREAN MONETARY UNIT. ONE DOLLAR IS EQUAL TO ABOUT 1300 WON
NEPALESE GODDESS HOT DOGS. GET A FREE FUTURE FORECAST WHEN YOU ORDER TEN HOT DOGS.
찰도그
HOT DOG
TWO MORE HOT DOGS PLEASE.
PEOPLE MADE HER A GODDESS.
SHE BECAME SKILLED AT READING THEIR FACES WHILE SHE WAS LIVING AS A KUMARI
PEOPLE...WANT TO GIVE A SPECIAL MEANING TO THE SMALLEST OF FORTUITOUS EVENTS.

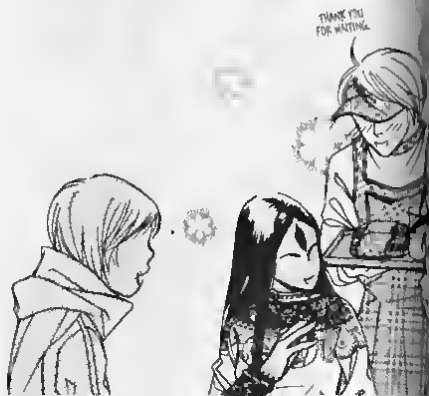
"SEXY GODDESS." THAT'S WHAT MY FANS CALL ME.
YOU CAN BE THE GODDESS OF STUPIDITY
I SEE A GODDESS EVERY DAY TOO
THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT GODS ANYONE CAN BE ONE.
MY PARENTS, LOVERS, FRIENDS
FAMOUS ACTORS EVEN I CAN BE A GOD.
10TH
THE POWER THAT ALLOWS A PERSON TO WALK INTO THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

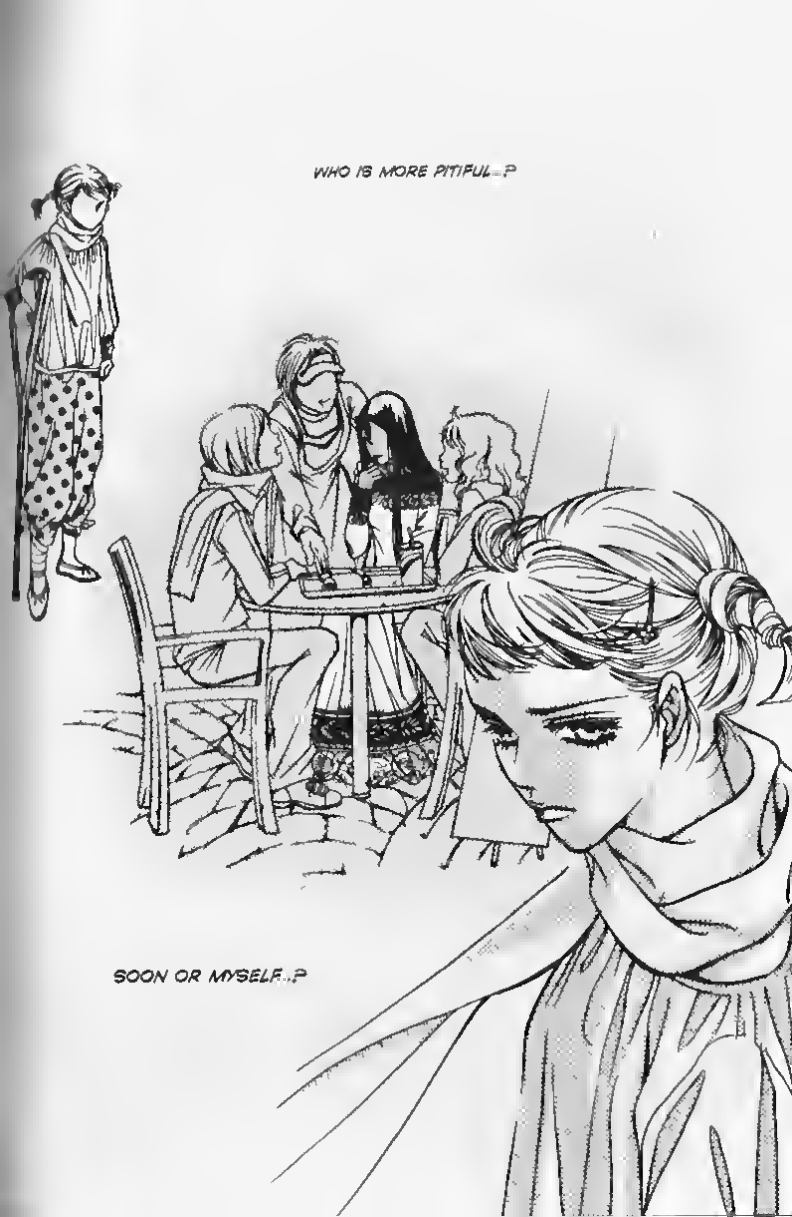

...IS THAT NOT WHAT A GOD IS?



PITY..?

IF THERE IS A GOD, I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK HIM




WHO IS MORE PITIFUL..?
SOON OR MYSELF..?

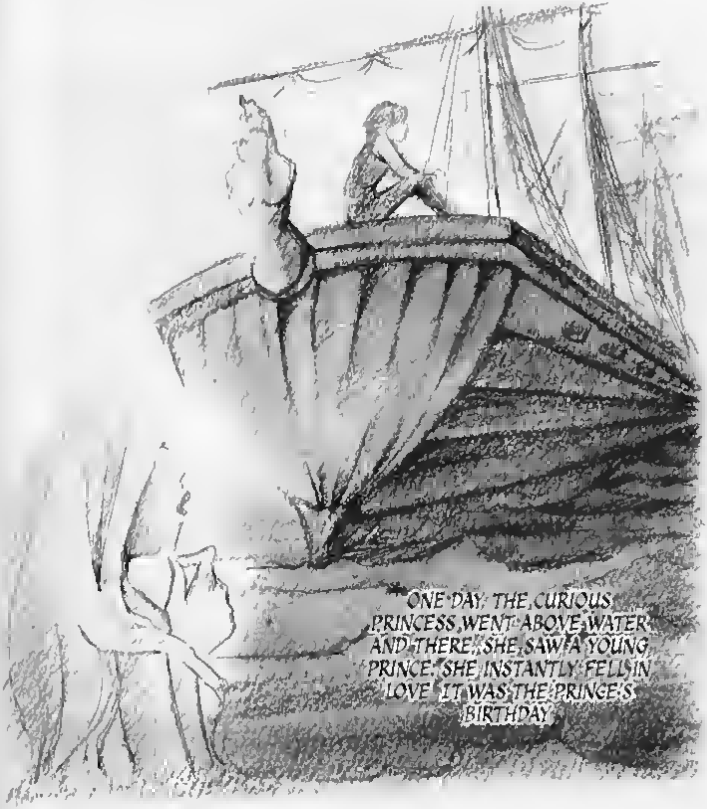
DAMMIT~! THESE'RE TOO TASTY
THEY'RE BITTER, BUT THERE'S A DELICATE FLAVOR UNDERNEATH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
BAAA...

WORDS FROM THE CREATOR

I've thought a lot about my dream for the new year. It would be nice to have a pig dream or a poop dream because those are good omens. While working on this volume, I thought about and missed so many people. I missed my late grandma, friends who live far away, friends I've forgotten, and the friend I can never see again, no matter where I might find her. She doesn't show me her face, not even when I see her in a dream. I should ask her to come into my dreams more often; I would love to have a nice meal with her. I wish you all good dreams and good luck. Have a good year!

IN THE DEEP, DEEP OCEAN, SO DEEP EVEN THE LONGEST ROPE COULDN'T REACH ITS BOTTOM...

... THERE LIVED A BEAUTIFUL MERMAID PRINCESS WITH LONG, SHINY HAIR.
WHEN SHE SANG, THE CLAMS BEAT TIME AND THE LITTLE FISH DANCED.


ONE DAY, THE CURIOUS PRINCESS WENT ABOVE WATER AND THERE, SHE SAW A YOUNG PRINCE. SHE INSTANTLY FELL IN LOVE. IT WAS THE PRINCE'S BIRTHDAY.

OH, MY!
HE IS SO
HANDSOME
AND MANLY...

SUDDENLY, THERE AROSE A FRIGHTENING STORM, AND THE PRINCE'S SHIP WAS SWEPT AWAY BY A GIGANTIC WAVE.

PLEASE
DO NOT DIE
MY PRINCE

CHAPTER 14
A MERMAID PRINCESS LIVES IN HAN RIVER

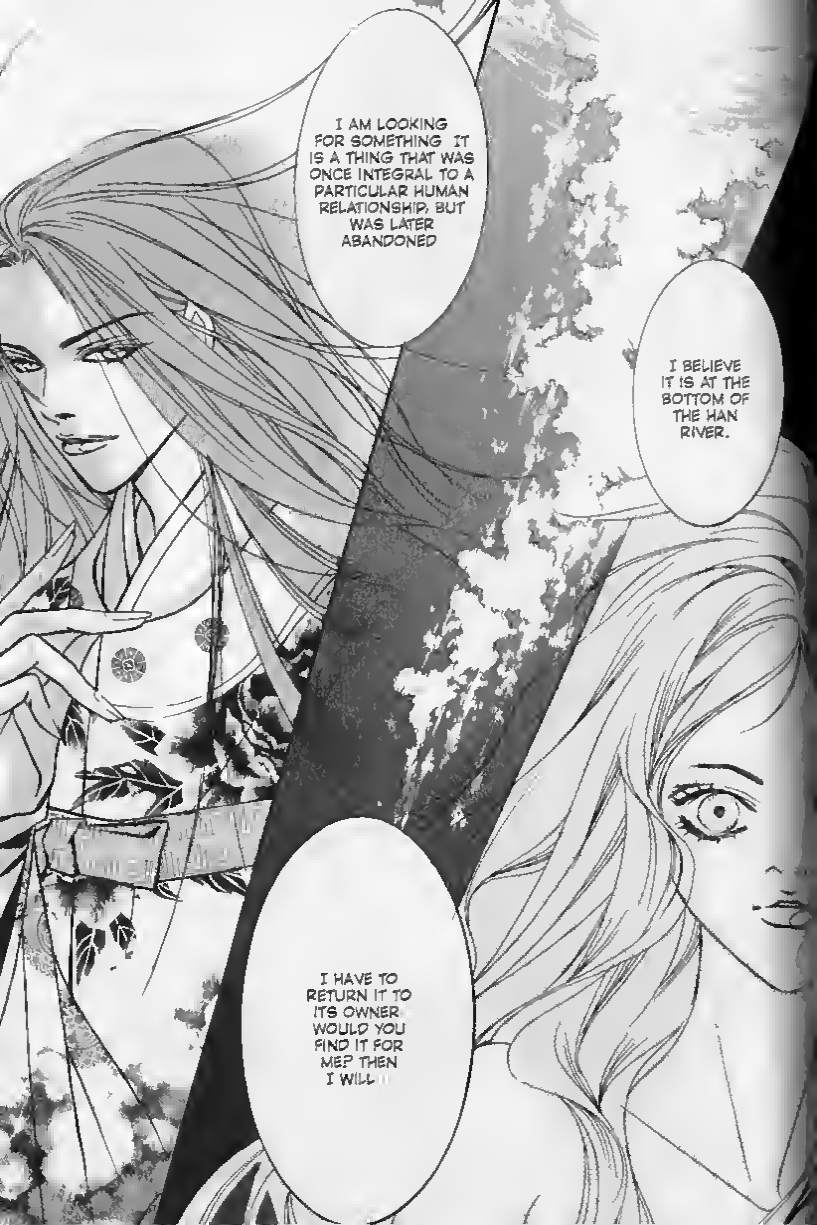
OK
PUCKER
!

PRINCE!
HEY, PRINCE!
WAKE UP! I SAVED YOUR LIFE. SO NOW YOU HAVE TO CARRY ME AND TAKE ME TO YOUR CASTLE!
DID I SAVE THE WRONG ONE?
ACCORDING TO THE BOOK, THE PRINCE JUMPS INTO WATER AFTER HE DRINKS
LITTLE MERMAID
YOU HAVEN'T READ THE END OF THE BOOK, HAVE YOU?

AS YOU CAN SEE, A LOT OF THE PAGES WERE TORN OUT
IF THE MERMAID PRINCESS WANTS TO GO TO THE PRINCE'S CASTLE, SHE HAS TO MAKE A DEAL WITH A WITCH TO GIVE UP HER VOICE
VOICE?
NUHH
UH
AHHH
POP
WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT IT? PEOPLE HATE MY VOICE. IT MAKES MEN THROW THEMSELVES OVERBOARD
AHHH
eh
AH

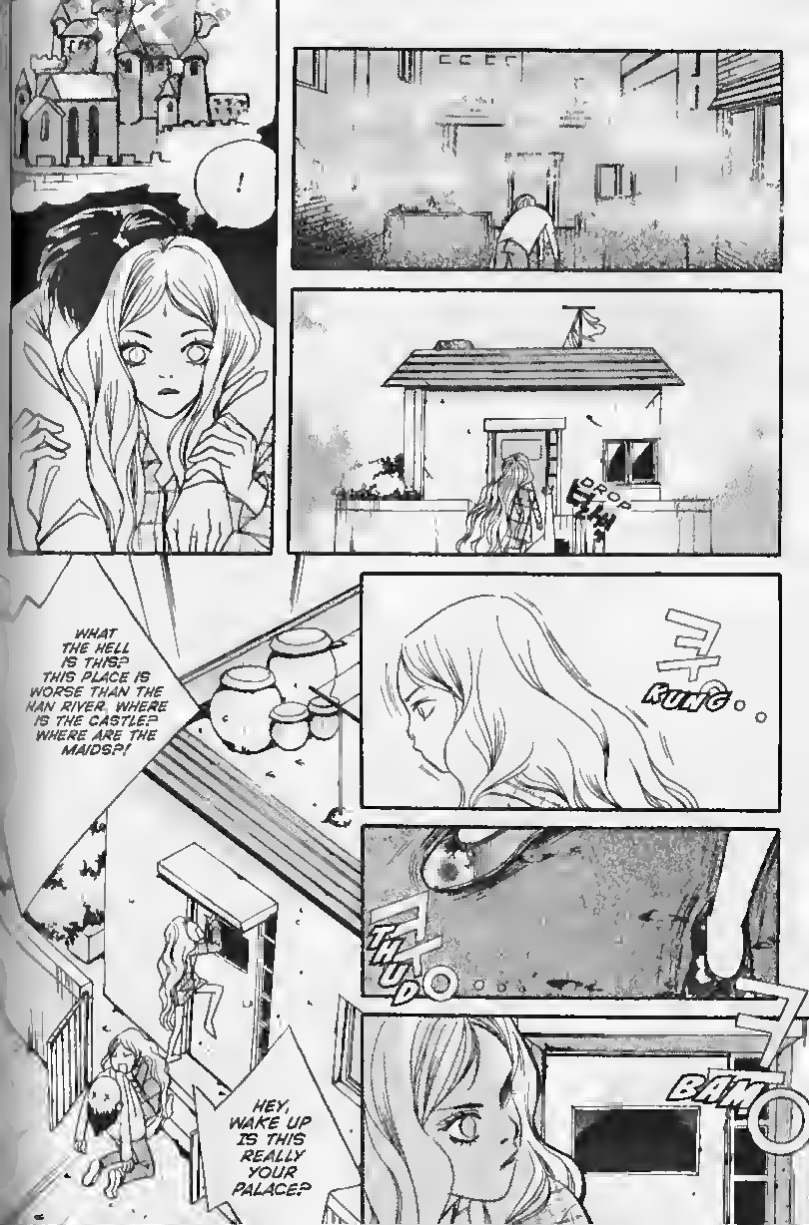
I WANT TO LEAVE HAN RIVER.
IS IT BECAUSE YOU LOVE HIM THAT YOU WANT TO BE HUMAN?
IF YOU SAW WHAT IT WAS LIKE AT THE BOTTOM, YOU WOULD UNDER-STAND
THE JUNK THAT PEOPLE THREW AWAY, THE CORPSES OF PEOPLE WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE, SHOES THAT LOST THEIR OWNERS... HAN RIVER IS FULL OF GARBAGE

PEOPLE CLAIM MY SINGING IS THAT OF A GHOST RISING FROM THE WATER TO POSSESS THEM AND MAKE THEM KILL THEMSELVES
HAN RIVER IS VERY BORING, AND MY EMOTIONS ARE DELICATE
TING
TING
IT'S YUCKY.
I HAD ONLY ONE FRIEND, AND HE SUFFERED A GRUESOME DEATH.
IT TOOK A WHILE TO BE HIS FRIEND, TOO.
WITH YOUR APPEARANCE PEOPLE THINK YOU ARE A MONSTER TOO
WHY?
DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DEAL WITH ME?
HE WAS JUST DOING WHAT A MONSTER WAS SUPPOSED TO DO


I AM LOOKING FOR SOMETHING IT IS A THING THAT WAS ONCE INTEGRAL TO A PARTICULAR HUMAN RELATIONSHIP, BUT WAS LATER ABANDONED
I BELIEVE IT IS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HAN RIVER.
I HAVE TO RETURN IT TO ITS OWNER WOULD YOU FIND IT FOR ME? THEN I WILL

...GIVE YOU LEGS SO THAT YOU MAY WALK ON THE LAND, MERMAID PRINCESS.

TOK
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A WITCH...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A WITCH...
IF IT WAS NOT FOR THESE DAMNED LEGS, I COULD HAVE GONE TO HIS CASTLE, NO PROBLEM. PATIENCE, PATIENCE, PATIENCE... WHEN I GET TO THE CASTLE..
DRAG
DRAG
DRAG
MAIDS WILL WAIT ON ME. THEY'LL DRAW ME A BATH. A BEAUTIFUL MARBLE TUB AND THERE WILL BE A FABULOUS PARTY.


!
DROP
HUH?
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? THIS PLACE IS WORSE THAN THE HAN RIVER. WHERE IS THE CASTLE? WHERE ARE THE MAIDS?!
RUNG
THUD
BAM
HEY, WAKE UP IS THIS REALLY YOUR PALACE?

AH
GROOOOAAAAS

UH...
WHO...?
AHHH!!
I LIVE WITH HIM.
LIVE WITH HIM?
THEN THAT MAKES YOU A PRINCESS FROM A RIVAL KINGDOM, HERE TO STEAL MY PRINCE...
..SHE CAN'T BE

YOU MUST BE THAT PRINCESS'S MAID!
STINKY.
BOUNCE
ARGH!

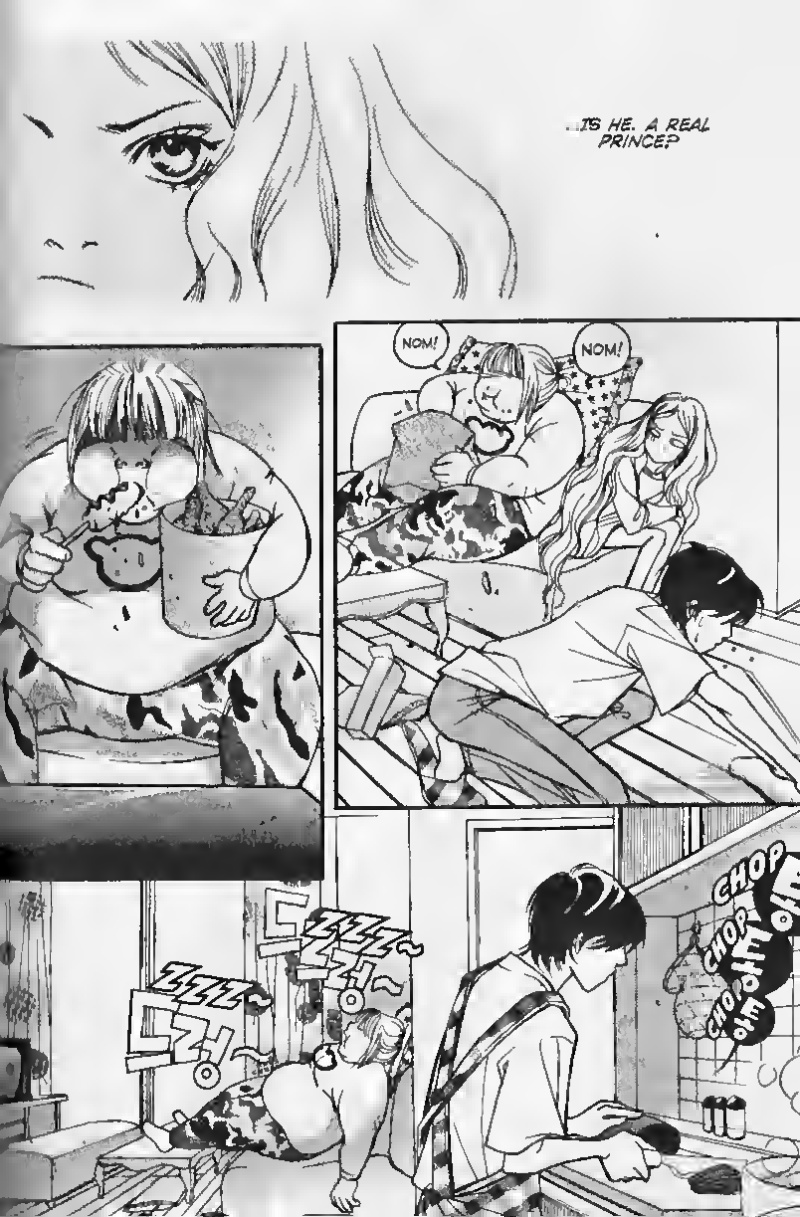
SO YOU'RE A MERMAID PRINCESS, AND...
YOU SAVED WANG-JA *
*A KOREAN NAME THE PRONUNCIATION OF WHICH IS THE SAME AS THE WORD FOR "PRINCE."
AND YOU ARE GOING TO MARRY WANG-JA?
SEE? I STILL HAVE MY TONGUE. I WON'T BACK DOWN, NOT FOR ONE RIVAL PRINCESS, NOT FOR A HUNDRED!
MY PRINCE, YOU NEED TO SWEAR YOUR LOVE TO ME.
MY NAME MIGHT SOUND LIKE "PRINCE," BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT IT MEANS.

I DON'T CARE IF YOU KILL YOURSELF OR NOT, BUT ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME STARVE TO DEATH?
MAKE ME DINNER.
BANG
HOW DARE YOU? YOU MERE MAID!
I HATE YOU

THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME. IT'S GETTING LATE, SO YOU SHOULD STAY HERE FOR THE NIGHT.
I CAN SLEEP IN THE LIVING ROOM
THIS IS NOT HOW THINGS PROGRESS IN THE BOOK. DID THE AUTHOR EXAGGERATE BECAUSE HE WAS WRITING FOR CHILDREN?
WHERE'S YOUR HOME —?
I TOLD YOU, I AM A MERMAID PRINCESS~!
THIS GIRL IS VERY STRANGE
.YOU SHOULD...
..TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF INSIDE THE HOUSE

I TOLD YOU I'LL TAKE THEM OFF IF YOU MARRY ME~!
BANG
SHUT UP!
CHOMP
THAT PIG.
CHOMP

FLINCH
UH...
EH...
THUD
MISS MERMAID!
DON'T TOUCH ME!


...IS HE. A REAL PRINCE?
NOM!
NOM!
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
ZZZZ~
ZZZZ~

CREAK
WHAT THE HELL?!
THE BOOK NEVER LIES. THESE CHAMBERS ARE FOR A PRINCESS, AND I AM A PRINCESS~!
SO THIS IS MY ROOM FROM NOW ON. MINE.

PRINCESS.
A DRESS FIT FOR A PRINCESS!
THIS MUST BE A GOWN FOR ME TO WEAR TO THE PARTY—!

CRASH
AIEEEEE!

PUNCH

SLAP
SLAP
ST-
STOP
IT.
WOO-
RYUNG!
ARGHHOH!!
I MADE YOU PORK BELLY AND I ALSO COOKED CHICKEN FEET THE WAY YOU LIKE.
PLEASE
PLEASE
STOP IT

THUMP
THAT'S ENOUGH ALREADY!
PANT
PANT

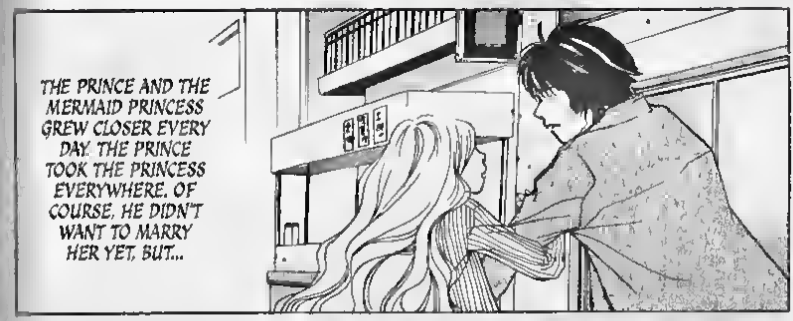
SORRY. I'M SORRY.
EAT... PORK BELLY.
I AM THE VICTIM HERE WHY APOLOGIZE TO HER?
GO OUT AND BUY SWEET AND SOUR PORK, BLOOD PUDDING SOUP, AND HAM HOCKS
DUMPLINGS AND FRIED PASTRIES
...AND CHITTERLINGS!
UHK...

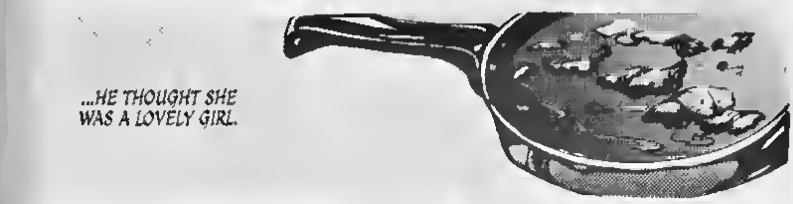
BUY EVERYTHING I SAID! I'M GONNA EAT ALL OF IT!
THE PRINCE LET OUT A BIG SIGH.

THE MERMAID PRINCESS WAS SAD TO SEE HIM SO EXHAUSTED. YOU COULD SEE THE PITY IN HER EYES.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING MY PRINCE? AM I NOT THE ONE YOU LOVE THE MOST?
SINCE WE ARE BOTH IN BAD TEMPERS, YOU CAN KISS ME IF YOU WOULD LIKE
WOW, YOU SMILED YOU HAVE NEVER SMILED AT ME BEFORE

DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE MARKET WITH ME?
WHY, YES, YES I WOULD LOVE TO, LOVE TO~!

HMM...
ARGH...
THUD
PANT
PANT

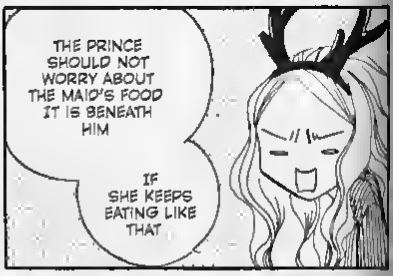

THE PRINCE AND THE MERMAID PRINCESS GREW CLOSER EVERY DAY. THE PRINCE TOOK THE PRINCESS EVERYWHERE. OF COURSE, HE DIDN'T WANT TO MARRY HER YET, BUT...


...HE THOUGHT SHE WAS A LOVELY GIRL.

"I LIKE YOU. YOU ARE KIND, AND YOU LIKE ME. WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, I DON'T FEEL DEPRESSED ANYMORE.

"YOU LOOK LIKE THE GIRL WHO SAVED MY LIFE."

SHE EATS ALL OF THIS?
WOO-RYUNG GETS ANGRY WHEN THERE ISN'T ENOUGH FOOD
고기
MEAT


THE PRINCE SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT THE MAID'S FOOD IT IS BENEATH HIM
IF SHE KEEPS EATING LIKE THAT

...SHE WILL EXPLODE IN ONE BIG, SLOPPY POP!

IF SHE DOESN'T EAT...SHE WILL DIE.

까
HA. 까 HA. 까 HA!
SHE COULD LIVE ONE HUNDRED MORE YEARS OFF OF WHAT SHE HAS ALREADY CONSUMED.
BY THE WAY, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO MARRY ME?
WOW~! IT'S A PRINCESS!
띠리
DING-A-LING
BUY IT FOR ME!
EEEE~!
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS STORE HAS GONE OUT OF BUSINESS

IT IS THE SAME DRESS AS THE ONE IN THE MAID'S ROOM

IT'S NOT FOR SALE

I'M NOT SELLING ANYTHING ANYMORE.

PEOPLE EITHER THROW AWAY OR RETURN WHATEVER THEY GET FROM MY STORE ANYWAY.

OOF~! THIS DAMN COLD
A-CHOO!
HELLO!
?
HELLO. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
?
OH, I AM TRYING TO BE A HUMAN
HUMAN? WHAT FOR?
HEE-HEE-HEE~! YOU'RE STILL WEIRD~!
GOOD THING YOU ARE HERE CAN YOU TELL THE OWNER OF THIS STORE WHAT WE WANT?
TELL HER IF SHE KEEPS IGNORING WHAT WE SAY, SHE WILL STAY SICK FOREVER. SHE IS SO STUBBORN...

GET AWAY FROM ME!
THAT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS...!
? ? ?
TSK TSK...
SHE'S GONE MAD TOO.

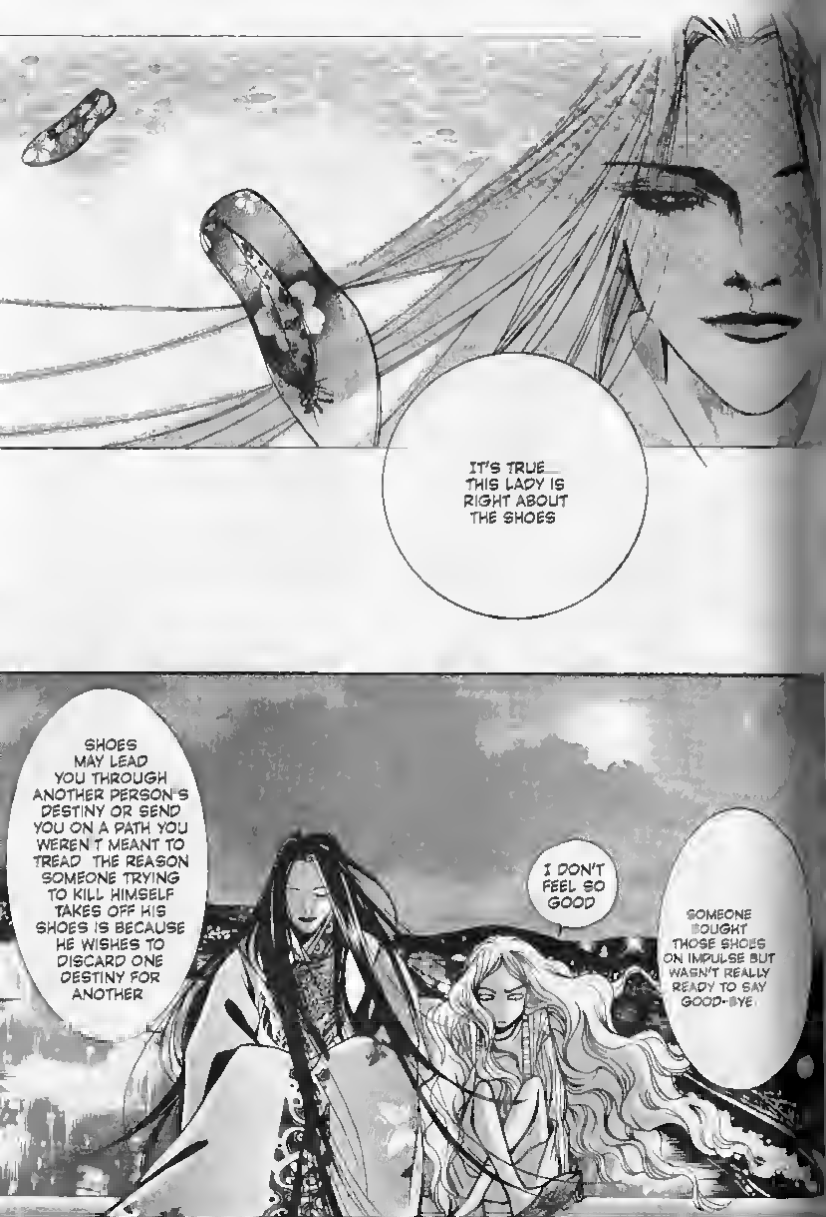
YOU'RE HERE TO RETURN THOSE SHOES, AREN'T YOU?

LEAVE THEM HERE YOU ALREADY WORE THEM, SO I CAN'T REFUND YOU THE MONEY.
I CAN TELL RIGHT AWAY THEY CAME FROM MY STORE.
THESE ARE MINE THE WITCH OF HAN RIVER GAVE THEM TO ME

SO YOU PICKED THEM UP OFF THE STREET?
I DID NO SUCH THING!
ANYWAY, THEY AREN'T YOURS, ARE THEY!? YOU SHOULDN'T WEAR OTHER PEOPLE'S SHOES LIKE THAT.

THESE ARE MINE! I CANNOT REMOVE THEM UNTIL I BECOME HUMAN.
DO YOU SEE THIS DUSTY JUNK OVER HERE? PEOPLE BOUGHT THAT STUFF BUT BROUGHT IT BACK BECAUSE THEY SAID IT WAS POSSESSED. YOU SHOULD LEAVE THOSE SHOES HERE INSTEAD OF THROWING THEM OUT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO FIND

NO, THESE ARE MY LEGS!
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND, AREN'T YOU?
THEY WERE AN UNWANTED GIFT ANYWAY


IT'S TRUE... THIS LADY IS RIGHT ABOUT THE SHOES
SHOES MAY LEAD YOU THROUGH ANOTHER PERSON'S DESTINY OR SEND YOU ON A PATH YOU WEREN'T MEANT TO TREAD. THE REASON SOMEONE TRYING TO KILL HIMSELF TAKES OFF HIS SHOES IS BECAUSE HE WISHES TO DISCARD ONE DESTINY FOR ANOTHER
I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD
SOMEONE BOUGHT THOSE SHOES ON IMPULSE BUT WASN'T REALLY READY TO SAY GOOD-BYE

PLEASE DON'T WORRY WHEN THE TIME COMES, THOSE SHOES WILL RETURN TO THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNER...
BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, YOU SHOULD MARRY THE PRINCE. HOW DO YOU LIKE LIVING AS A HUMAN, BY THE WAY?
CAN'T YOU TELL?
THE RIVER IS... STINKIER THAN BEFORE
IT IS THE FAULT OF LINGERING ATTACHMENTS —

...SPIRITS WHO CAN'T LEAVE...
...PEOPLE WHO CAN'T LET GO..IT'S THE FOUL ODOR OF INDECISION.
BOIL
BOIL
ARGH
AHH..

UH...UH...
SPLASH
?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AGH~! HELP ME.
ARGH!
ARE YOU STUCK? IT IS BECAUSE YOU EAT LIKE A PIG~!
PROMISE ME THAT YOU WILL GIVE ME THE PRINCESS'S BEDROOM AND START ACTING LIKE A MAID. THEN I WILL HELP YOU.

SPLASH
I...
I CANNOT
BREATHE
I SUPPOSE
I AM BECOMING
A REAL HUMAN

IT HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE I HAVE BEEN IN THE WATER. I LOVE THIS FEELING
SOMEDAY I WILL MISS EVEN HANRIVER. WILL I NOT?
HOOOA
GAAAAH!!
PHEW
HEY!
SLAP
HUH? WHAT IS THIS?
DEAD SKIN? IT IS DEAD SKIN!
DIRTY, DIRTY, DIRTY~!
GET LOST! GET OUT OF HERE!

ARGH~! LOOK AT THIS ICKY DEAD SKIN. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU EXFOLIATED ?!
DON'T TOUCH ME! GET OUT, GET OUT!
SCRUB
SCRUB
MMM...
SCRUB
SCRUB
WOAH~! IT'S KIND OF FUN TO SCRUB SOMEONE'S DEAD SKIN~!

WOO-RYUNG, IT'S TIME TO .
I WILL SCRUB EVERY LAST INCH—

CHIRP
CHIRP
THE PRINCESS DRESS...
BANG
I SCRUBBED YOUR DEAD SKIN OFF AND LUGGED YOU TO YOUR ROOM!
PARTY?

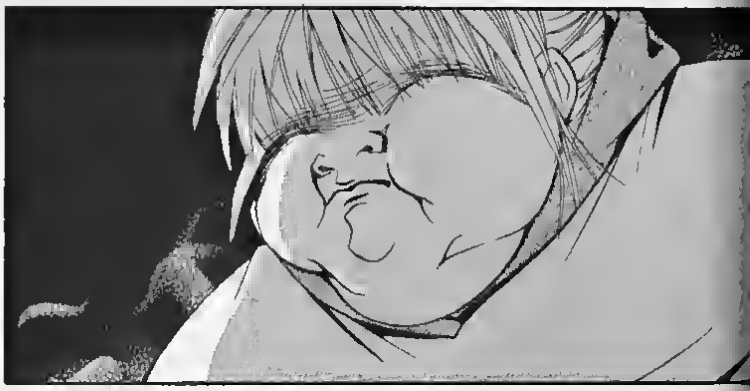
A PRINCESS NEEDS TO HAVE A PARTY I WANT TO WEAR A GOWN AND A TIARA AND DANCE IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE
THAT'S TOO MUCH...
I REALLY WANT ONE
DING!

WOO-RYUNG
MISS MERMAID DOESN'T UNDERSTAND YET PLEASE DON'T BE MAD, OKAY?
PUSH
MISS MERMAID, LET'S EAT OVER THERE WOO-RYUNG HATES WHEN OTHER PEOPLE TOUCH HER FOO——
SHHK
.....
DON'T JUST STAND THERE LIKE A MORON... COOK SOME MORE MEAT
OH, O-OKAY
THIS IS DISGUST-ING
PHEW... MISS MERMAID GOT LUCKY TODAY
DING-DONG

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
YOUR FACE LOOKS SALLOW. NEXT SATURDAY, YOUR FATHER AND I ARE LEAVING KOREA
I WON'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND. YOUR FATHER'S HEALTH ISN'T VERY GOOD.
I... CAN'T LEAVE, YOU KNOW THAT
YOU HAVE DONE ENOUGH FOR HER. YOU NEED TO GET AWAY FROM THAT WOMAN. YOU SHOULD LIVE YOUR OWN LIFE.
THERE WILL BE A LOT OF FOOD AT THE PARTY. SO YOU WILL HAVE FUN. DOES THAT SOUND LIKE A PLAN, PEGGY?

I'LL CALL YOU.
CRASH
WANG-JA.

COOK THIS AGAIN.
SPLOT
POURR
THIS SUCKS ONLY A DOG COULD EAT THIS
IF I DIE...
...WILL YOU STOP BEING MAD?

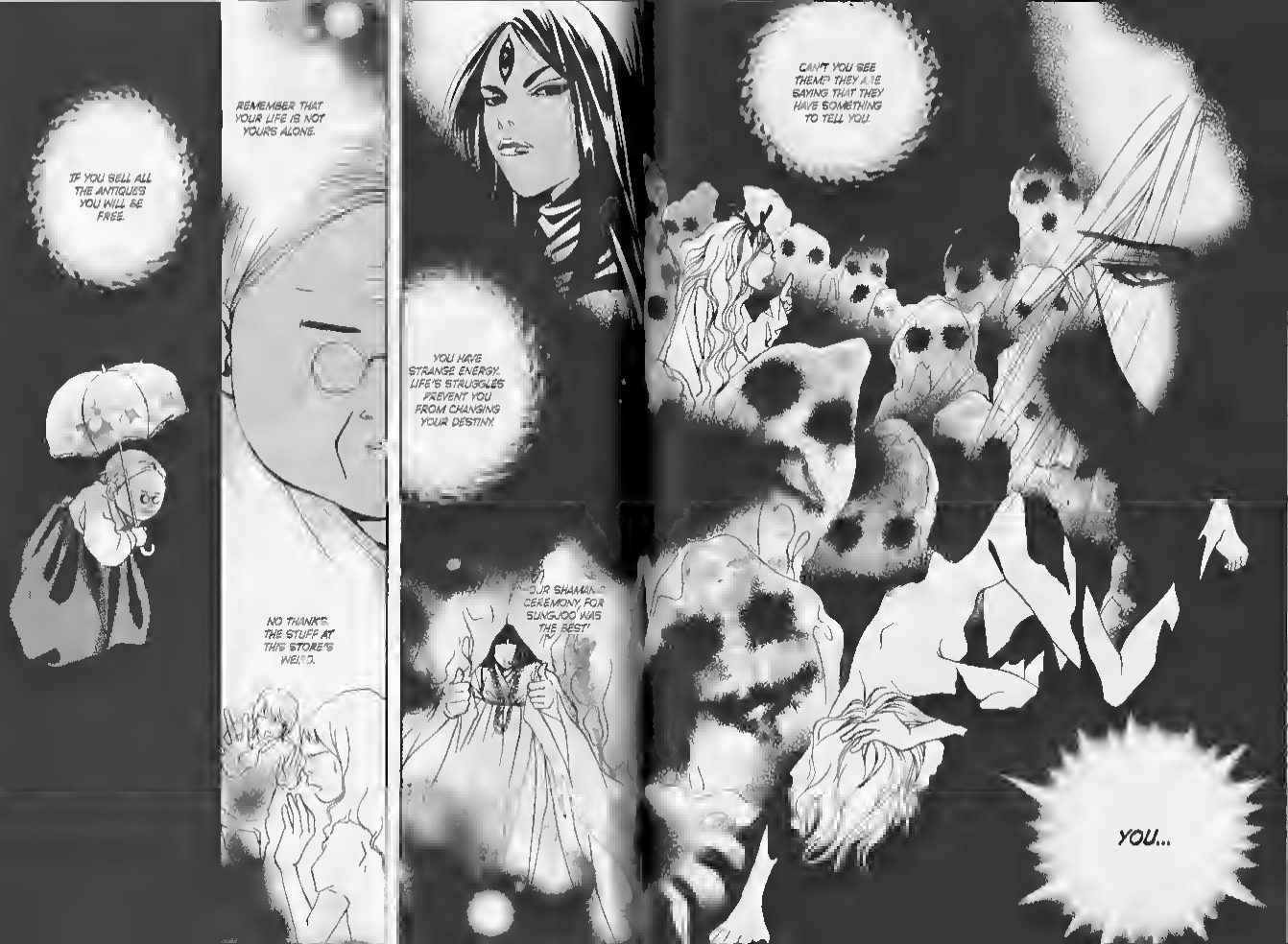


YES, DIE.
STOP PRETENDING
TO KILL YOURSELF
AND FINALLY GET
THE JOB DONE
RIGHT.

WHAT DID I DO-?!
AHHHH!
DID YOU THINK I WOULD LEAVE IF YOU GAVE ME THESE SHOES?!
ARE THESE SHOES SUPPOSED TO BE MY CUE TO GET LOST? YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE GUTS TO GIVE THEM TO ME. THEY'VE BEEN IN YOUR ROOM FOR OVER A WEEK!
I DON'T NEED SHOES BECAUSE I WON'T LEAVE THIS HOUSE. NOT AS LONG AS I LOOK LIKE THIS

WHO CARES IF ANYONE WEARS THEM? THOSE SHOES MUST HAVE BEEN THROWN AWAY BECAUSE THEY WERE AN UNWANTED GIFT
YOU'RE NOT...
SOMEBODY'S THOSE SHOES MUST BE... MUSE BUT I WASN'T REALLY READY TO SAY GOODBYE
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE HAVING A HARD TIME
DIE! EVERY-THING IS YOUR FAULT!
NO MORE FAKING! DIE FOR REAL!

SLAM
P-PRINCE!
BUY ME A CHEESE-CAKE ON YOUR WAY BACK!
...PRINCE...


IF YOU SELL ALL THE ANTIQUES YOU WILL BE FREE.
REMEMBER THAT YOUR LIFE IS NOT YOURS ALONE.
NO THANKS. THE STUFF AT THIS STORE'S WEIRD.
YOU HAVE STRANGE ENERGY. LIFE'S STRUGGLES PREVENT YOU FROM CHANGING YOUR DESTINY.
OUR SHAMAN'S CEREMONY FOR SUNJOO WAS THE BEST!
CAN'T YOU SEE THEM? THEY ARE SAYING THAT THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
YOU...

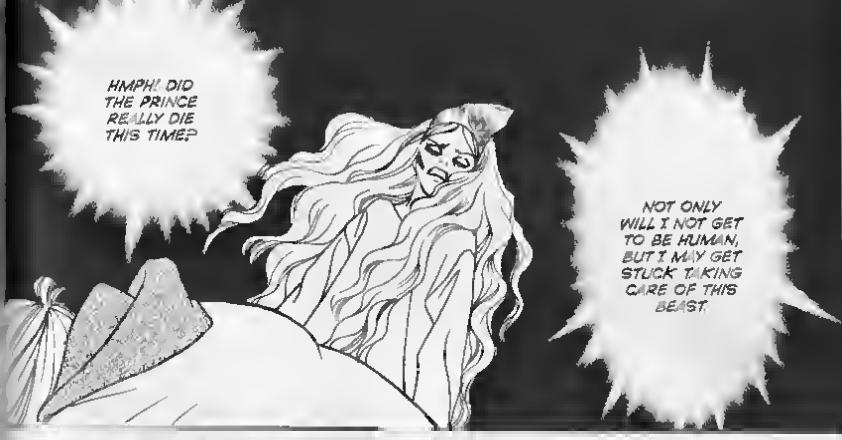
AHH
OH
H

ARGH!!
YOU TALK REALLY LOUD IN YOUR SLEEP THIS IS MY HOUSE DON'T FORGET~!
PANT
PANT
I WASN'T SLEEPING

IT'S BEEN A WEEK. AREN'T YOU GOING BACK TO YOUR STORE?
THEY KEEP... TALKING TO ME...
WHO? YOU KICKED MR. YANG OUT WHO'S LEFT TO YAP AT YOU? STOP BEING A BABY AND GO BACK TO THE STORE~!
AHH

CHOP
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME? HURRY UP AND GET MOVING!
CHOP
CHOP
I'M HUNGRY. SOO HUNGRY ~!
COMING COMING
NO GOOD DO IT AGAIN! AGAIN!
CHOP
ENOOOOOUGH!

DO NOT EAT IF YOU ARE JUST GOING TO THROW UP WHATEVER I MAKE!
GRUMBLE
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?! BEING HUMAN IS NOT AT ALL WONDERFUL! THE PRINCE HAS NOT COME HOME FOR A WEEK.
YOU'RE SICK OF ME TOO, AREN'T YOU?
OF COURSE YOU ARE A MONSTER I SHOULD HAVE LET THE PRINCE DROWN.
IF I KNEW THAT THE PRINCE WAS LIVING LIKE THIS, I WOULD NOT HAVE SAVED HIM THE BOTTOM OF HAN RIVER IS FAR BETTER THAN THIS



I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO DIE BECAUSE WHENEVER I LOOK IN THE MIRROR, I GET ENRAGED

THIS FAIRY TALE IS THE WORST.
IT WAS FUN TO SCARE COUPLES GETTING IT ON IN THEIR CARS...
THE HAN RIVER MUST BE DIRTIER THAN BEFORE...
THE NIGHT VIEW OF THE WATER IS GREAT, THOUGH.
HEY, IS THAT NOT...

...THE SAME DRESS AS THE ONE IN THE CLOSET?!
WHO THE HECK IS SHE? WHY IS SHE WEARING THE DRESS?
SHE IS THE PRINCE'S BETROTHED
THEN SHE IS MY RIVAL FROM A NEIGHBORING KINGDOM?!
SHE'S DEAD

THE PRINCE KILLED HER

STAY WITH ME, PRINCESS I DON'T WANT TO LET YOU GO
KIDDING! EVEN IF I CONVINCED YOU, IT WOULDN'T WORK, WOULD IT? BALLET IS EVERYTHING TO YOU.
YOU'RE SAYING THE EXACT SAME THING MY MOM SAID_

YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE BORN WITH A TALENT. I ENVY YOU. IT'S LIKE YOU KNOW YOUR OWN DESTINY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK I WILL BE BY THE TIME YOU RETURN FROM YOUR LIFE AS A WORLD-CLASS BALLERINA?
HOW COME YOU'RE NOT EATING? IS IT NO GOOD?
OH, I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT

SHE NEVER EATS BETWEEN MEALS. SHE ONLY DRINKS WATER.
OH~! HOW CAN YOU LIVE LIKE THAT?
YEAH... MILK AND AN APPLE.
OH, MOM
YEAH...
HA-
HA-
HA-
HA!

YOU'RE DROOLING!
HERE, THIS'LL BE MY TREAT—!
NO, LET ME I'LL GET IT.
IF I PAY FOR IT, IT'LL BE THE SAME AS IF I ATE THEM.
IT'S OKAY
IT'S OKAY

DON'T DO THAT~! I'M GOING TO WEAR THEM IN THE COMPETITION~!
I'LL GIVE THEM BACK IF YOU EAT SOMETHING ~!

ONE BITE OF FOOD WON'T MAKE YOU FAT. AND IF YOU DID GET FAT, I'D TAKE CARE OF YOU~!
ACK...
NO ~!
THE PRINCE

...KILLED ALL OF THE PRINCESS'S DREAMS.
SP
-LASH
WANG-JA CAN'T BE YOUR PRINCE. EITHER HE DIES
...OR HE PAYS FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE TO ME.

THE DARK NIGHT

...A NIGHT DARKER THAN THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN, DEEPER THAN THE MERMAID PRINCESS HAD EVER SEEN, WAS GROWING LATE

THAT NIGHT...

...THE MERMAID PRINCESS FELT THAT DARKNESS IT BECAME THE PAIN IN HER HEART

JUMPING INTO HAN RIVER IS WANG-JA'S HOBBY HE DOES IT WHENEVER HE GETS DRUNK, BUT HE ALWAYS COMES BACK AFTERWARD
DO YOU THINK DYING IS AS EASY AS THAT?
!
CHEESE-CAKE...

SNATCH
CHOMP
와구
CHOMP
와구
STOP EATING! IT IS BAD FOR YOU. YOU CANNOT REGAIN THE PAST.
THIS IS THE LAST TIME. I WON'T DO THIS ANYMORE

MISS MERMAID..

...PLEASE MARRY ME.

CONGRATULATIONS. YOU MADE YOUR WISH COME TRUE
CONGRATULATIONS MY TAIL! WOO-RYUNG HAS GONE CRAZY. SHE WILL NOT SLEEP AND SHE WILL NOT STOP EATING
SHE EATS AND THROWS UP EATS AND THROWS UP IF I MARRY THE PRINCE, SHE WILL GET WORSE HOW CAN I HAVE THAT ON MY CONSCIENCE?
THIS IS NO FUN AT ALL!
I AM GOING BACK TO THE HAN RIVER IT IS BETTER IN THE WATER.

ARE YOU COMMITTING SUICIDE?
SHOES ARE EVIDENCE OF THE PAST.
WHEN A PERSON KILLS HERSELF, SHE REMOVES HER SHOES TO FULFILL THE NEED TO LIQUIDATE AND LEAVE BEHIND ALL TRACES OF THE PAST.
THE MERMAID PRINCESS WHO COULDN'T MARRY THE PRINCE...
...BECAME SEA FOAM...

I CAN NEVER GO BACK TO THE HAN RIVER?!
THE END OF THIS FAIRY TALE IS THAT THE PRINCESS BECOMES A WANDERING SPIRIT THAT CAN NEVER STAY IN ONE PLACE
THIS CANNOT BE! YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME THIS BEFORE!
I MUST SAY GOOD-BYE I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH YOU TURN INTO SEA FOAM

YOU WITCH! YOU CHEAT! I'LL CURSE YOU INTO A WATER GHOST!

PLEASE HELP ME JUST ONCE .. PLEASE~?
EVEN IF IT IS FILTHY AND I AM LONELY, I LIKE THE HAN RIVER. PLEASE LET ME GO BACK THERE. THEN WOO-RYUNG WILL NO LONGER EAT LIKE A PIG.
THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN STOP HER EATING LIKE THAT IS THE PRINCE
CHEWING FOOD, EXPERIENCING ITS TASTE AND THE ACT OF SWALLOWING IT IS A JOY OF THE LIVING
BUT WHAT DOES FOOD MEAN TO HER?

ANGER...?
LOSS?
STOP PRETENDING TO KILL YOURSELF AND FINALLY GET THE JOB DONE RIGHT!
I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU!
THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY THAT THE MERMAID PRINCESS CAN GO BACK TO THE SEA AND HER FAMILY.
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HAVE BOTH THE HAN RIVER AND THE PRINCE.

YOU NEED A DAGGER TO CUT OUT THE PRINCE'S HEART.
THIS FAIRY TALE MUST END SOMEHOW...
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE ANTIQUE GIFT SHOP VOLUME 9!